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Reagan Planning to Use Soviet Photos in Push For Defense Money 23 March 1983

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3/23/83**REAGAN PLANNING TO USE SOVIET PHOTOS IN PUSH FOR DEFENSE MONEY****BY TERENCE HUNT****ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER**

WASHINGTON (AP) - PRESIDENT REAGAN PLANS TO BUTTRESS HIS CASE FOR A HUGE PENTAGON BUILDUP BY REVEALING SECRET PHOTOGRAPHS THAT DOCUMENT A BIG SOVIET MILITARY MODERNIZATION PROGRAM; AN ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL SAID TUESDAY.

REAGAN WILL ADDRESS THE NATION IN A NATIONALLY TELEVISED SPEECH AT 8 P.M. EST WEDNESDAY.

AN ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL, SPEAKING ON CONDITION HE NOT BE IDENTIFIED, SAID REAGAN WAS CONSIDERING DISPLAYING AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF SOVIET-SUPPLIED WEAPONS AND INSTALLATIONS IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST.

THE BIG QUESTION IS HOW MUCH TO REVEAL; THE OFFICIAL SAID. THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY HAS BEEN OPPOSED TO RELEASING ANY MATERIAL; ON GROUNDS IT WOULD DEMONSTRATE HOW GOOD - OR HOW BAD - U.S. CAPABILITIES ARE.

THE OFFICIAL INDICATED THE MATERIAL REAGAN DISPLAYS PROBABLY WOULD BE PHOTOGRAPHS FROM HIGH-ALTITUDE AIRCRAFT INSTEAD OF FROM THE SUPER-SECRET SATELLITES, WHICH REPORTEDLY ARE CAPABLE OF TAKING PICTURES FROM AS FAR OUT AS 25,000 MILES.

WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN LARRY SPEAKES TOLD REPORTERS THAT REAGAN HAS BEEN URGED BY SOME CONGRESSMEN TO DECLASSIFY SECRET PHOTOS OF SOVIET MILITARY INSTALLATIONS TAKEN BY U.S. SPY SATELLITES AND AIRCRAFT.

"WHILE I CAN'T PROMISE IT, I WOULD URGE YOU TO WAIT AND SEE," SPEAKES SAID.

SPEAKES SAID REAGAN HAD THE AUTHORITY ON HIS OWN TO DECLASSIFY SECRET MATERIALS.

FOR SEVERAL WEEKS, THE WHITE HOUSE HAS BEEN CONDUCTING SECRET BRIEFINGS FOR CONGRESSMEN ON THE SOVIET MILITARY THREAT. THE FOCUS OF THE BRIEFINGS, CONDUCTED BY DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY ANALYST JOHN HUGHES, HAS BEEN AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS DEPICTING THE SOVIET THREAT. SPEAKES SAID THE SPEECH COMES AT A CRITICAL JUNCTURE BECAUSE "WE ARE ENGAGED IN A NATIONAL DISCUSSION ON WHETHER THE PRESIDENT SHOULD GO FORWARD WITH HIS DEFENSE BUILDUP THAT HE PLEDGED TO DO AND WAS ELECTED TO DO IN THE 1980 CAMPAIGN . . . AND THAT HE ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THROUGHOUT HIS ADMINISTRATION."

MILITARY SOURCES SAY PHOTOS TAKEN BY SPY SATELLITES PROVIDE A PICTURE SO PRECISE THAT THEY SHOW EVEN THE SHADOW OF A GUARD STANDING BY A FENCE; IN ONE INSTANCE. THE PHOTOS HELP INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS TRACK THE PROGRESS, SAY, OF MISSILE SILO CONSTRUCTION AND OTHER PROJECTS.